



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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Superintendent of
Public Instruction

CHARACTER EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE FACT SHEET - 2007

Vision

To develop youth to act and live with positive character values.

Mission

To inspire and support parents, educators and others who touch the lives of youth to instill in youth the traits of positive character.

Character Education Defined

Character education teaches universally-accepted values, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, and motivates youth to incorporate these values into their lives. Character education should be non-partisan and non-religious.

Program Overview

Arizona will be a leader and model state for character education by: providing voluntary education and training on the core values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship to educators, leaders of youth nonprofit organizations, children and their families in Arizona. This will be made possible through collaborations with businesses, educators, community organizations, the State of Arizona, state and local agencies that deal with parents and youth, Sovereign Nations, all other levels of government, youth sports programs and all stakeholders that work with youth.

Statistics Related to Arizona Children and Schools

- 1,625,376 children under age 18 in Arizona (2004)
- 1,094,226 children are enrolled in Arizona Schools (2006)
- 1465 Locally Governed Schools in Arizona (2006)
- 503 Charter Schools Operating (2006)
- 48% of Arizona 4th grade students scored below basic reading level (State) (2005)
 - National = 38%
- 35% of Arizona 8th grade students scored below basic reading level (State) (2005)
 - National = 29%
- 11% of teens are high school dropouts (2004).
- The teen birth rate is 36 per 1,000 females ages 15-17 (US average is 22 per 1,000). (2003).

10/06

All statistics are approximations.

All the statistics regarding number of students and schools were taken from the Arizona Department of Education website on August, 2006. Additional youth statistics were taken from KIDS Count Data Book (2004)